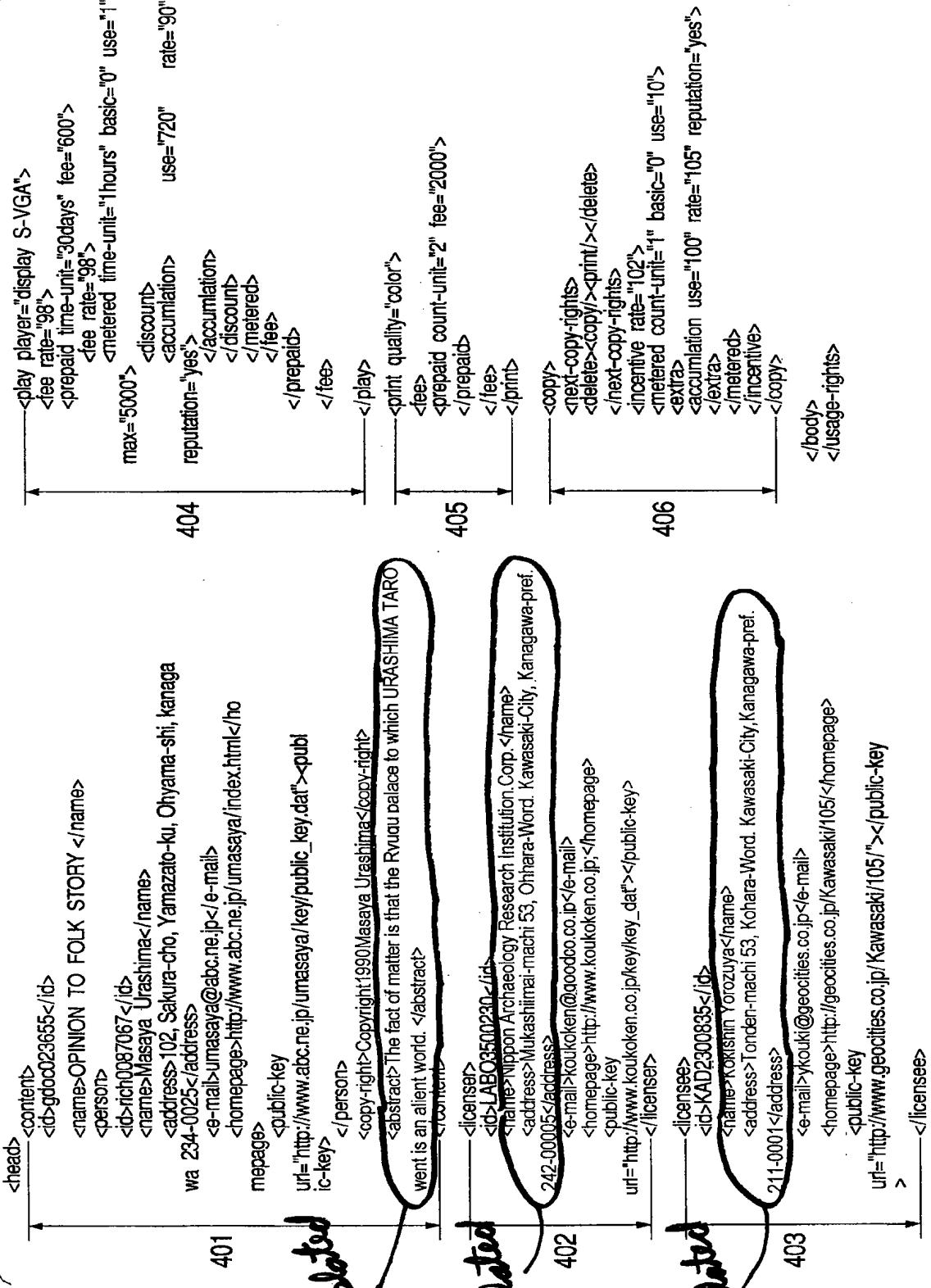


FIG. 4

400



Remarks

Claims 1 and 13 have been amended. The drawings have also been amended.

The Examiner has requested that a substitute specification be provided in proper idiomatic English. The Examiner has also indicated that the trademark MagicGate® used in applicant's specification needs to be acknowledged as a trademark by using the symbol ® following the word. Finally, the Examiner has objected to applicant's specification as informal for failing to define the abbreviations (acronyms) used therein.

Applicant has enclosed herewith a substitute specification in idiomatic English. A version of the substitute specification showing the changes made is also enclosed. The substitute specification likewise includes proper use of the trademark MagicGate® and a definition for the abbreviations (acronyms) used. The Examiner's requirements for a substitute specification have thus been satisfied and the informalities to the specification have been obviated.

The Examiner has objected to the drawings because they include non-English language characters in FIG. 4. To overcome this objection, applicant's have amended FIG. 4 to include English language translations of the non-English language characters. The Examiner's approval of the amended figure is respectfully requested.

The Examiner has objected to claim 13 and, in particular, to the content of the "wherein" clause. Applicant has amended claim 13 to remove the "wherein" clause thus overcoming this objection.

The Examiner has rejected applicant's claims 1-15 under 35 USC 102(b) as anticipated by the Stefik, et al. patent (US patent No. 5,629,980). With respect to applicant's claims, as

amended, this rejection is respectfully traversed.

Applicant's independent claim 1 has been amended to better define applicant's invention. More particularly amended claim 1 recites a content utilizing method in a system including a user terminal, a content server for providing a content, a content processing apparatus for processing a content, and a usage right control server for controlling a right of use of the content, the method comprising: a use requesting step of specifying a content to be used and a condition of use therefor in said user terminal and requesting a use of the content to said content server; a content transmitting step of encrypting the content with a predetermined encrypting key in said content server and transmitting the content to said content processing apparatus; a license control information transmitting step of generating, in said content server, license control information including usage right information having identification information and condition of use of the specified content and user specific information, and executing transmission together with a decrypting key corresponding to said encrypting key to said usage right control server; a ticket transmitting step of generating, in said content server, a ticket including an identifier of the license control information and transmitting the ticket to said content processing apparatus; an authorization step of transmitting the identifier of the license control information in the ticket from said content processing apparatus to said usage right control server, and verifying an authorization for use of the user by communicating with said content processing apparatus based on the user specific information in the license control information corresponding to the transmitted identifier; a usage right information transmitting step of transmitting the usage right information and the decrypting key from said authorizing

server to said content processing apparatus; and a content processing step of decrypting the encrypted content by the decrypting key in said content processing apparatus and processing the decrypted content based on the usage right information.

Applicant's invention thus defines a method used in a system comprising a user terminal, a content server for providing a content, a content processing apparatus for processing a content, and a usage right control server for controlling a right of use of the content. First, a use requesting step is carried out in which a content to be used and a condition of use therefor is specified in the user terminal and a request of a use of the content is made to the content server. Then follows a content transmitting step in which the content is encrypted with a predetermined encrypting key in the content server and transmitted to the content processing apparatus.

Also, in the content server, a license control information transmitting step is carried out in which license control information including usage right information having identification information and condition of use of the specified content and user specific information is generated. Then, there occurs execution of transmission of this information together with a decrypting key corresponding to the encrypting key to the usage right control server.

Additionally, in the content server, there occurs a ticket transmitting step in which a ticket including an identifier of the license control information is generated and transmitted to the content processing apparatus. There then follows an authorization step in which the content processing apparatus transmits the identifier of the license control information in the ticket to the usage right control sever. Thereafter, there occurs a verifying of an authorization for use of the user by communicating with the content processing apparatus based on the user specific

information in the license control information corresponding to the transmitted identifier.

A usage right information transmitting step is then carried out in which usage right information and the decrypting key is transmitted from the authorizing usage right control server to the content processing apparatus. Finally, a content processing step is carried out by the content processing apparatus in which the encrypted content is decrypted by the decrypting key and the decrypted content is processed based on the usage right information.

Such a construction is not taught or suggested by the cited art of record. In particular, the Stefik, et al. patent merely discloses a system in which there is communication between repositories and in which in a requester mode, a repository requests the access to a digital work, and, in the server mode, it receives the access request and encrypts communications. The Stefik, et al. patent also discloses that, for a particular request, a requester repository may communicate with an authorization server which decrypts an authorization certificate by means of a public key or a session key of the repository and tests it to execute the decrypted authorization. Thus, in the Stefik, et al. system, it is the requester repository which communicates with the authorization server and not the repository acting in the server mode (see, column 41, lines 40 through column 42, line) and the latter repository makes no such communication .

Accordingly, in the Stefik, et al. system, there is no content transmitting step in which the content is encrypted with a predetermined encrypting key in the content server and transmitted to a content processing apparatus. Also, while in the Stefik, et al. system, a backup copy procedure can be performed at the repository acting as a server to transmit a backup copy to a requester repository (see, column 37, line 37 through column 38, line 11), this process and

the discussion of Licensed Distribution (see, column 44, lines 23-64) fail to disclose a license control information transmitting step in which license control information including usage right information having identification information and condition of use of the specified content and user specific information is generated in the content server and transmitted with a decrypting key corresponding to the encrypting key to the usage right control server. Moreover, while the Stefik, et al. system mentions tickets (see, column 22, lines 34 through column 23, line 43), there is no teaching or suggestion in these passages of a ticket transmitting step in which a ticket including an identifier of the license control information is generated and transmitted to the content processing apparatus.

Additionally, there is no teaching or suggestion in the Stefik, et al. patent of an authorization step in which the content processing apparatus transmits the identifier of the license control information in the ticket to the usage right control sever or is there a verifying of an authorization for use of the user by communicating with the content processing apparatus based on the user specific information in the license control information corresponding to the transmitted identifier. As previously mentioned, in the Stefik, et al. system, the requester repository communicates with the authorization server, and there is no communication between the authorization server and the repository acting as the server. It therefore follows that there is not and cannot be a usage right information transmitting step in which usage right information and the decrypting key is transmitted from the authorizing usage right control server to the content processing apparatus, nor a content processing step carried out by the content processing apparatus in which the encrypted content is decrypted by the decrypting key and the

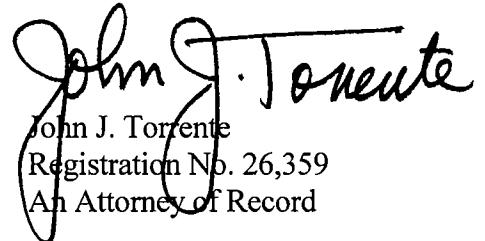
decrypted content is processed based on the usage right information.

Applicant's amended claim 1, and its respective dependent claims, all of which recite such features, thus patentably distinguish over the Stefk, et al. patent.

In view of the above, it is submitted that applicant's claims, as amended, patentably distinguish over the cited art of record. Accordingly, reconsideration of the claims is respectfully requested.

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Respectfully submitted,


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